

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01234 01 OF 02 071028Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 ITC-01 IGA-02 /099 W
-----071036Z 070869 /15

R 061815Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 650
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
USDAO CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 1234

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD, EGEN, ETRD, CARICOM, PINR
SUBJECT: TRINIDADIAN PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS

1. IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON MAY 6, I REVIEWED THEMES OF THE
PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH AND CURRENT USG POLICIES AND
INITIATIVES, STRESSING DESIRE FOR GREATER DIALOGUE,
ESPECIALLY WITH STATES SUCH AS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WHICH
SHARED OUR COMMITMENT TO FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS OUTLINE
SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS AND CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DONALDSON.

2. PRINCIPAL CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO (GOTT) ARE THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC THRUSTS
ELSEWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (ESPECIALLY JAMAICA
AND GUYANA), WORLDWIDE TRADE AND COMMODITY ISSUES, AND
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

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PAGE 02 PORT O 01234 01 OF 02 071028Z

3. INTERNALLY, THE GOTT IS MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH THE LEFTIST
PHENOMENON REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED LABOR FRONT (ULF)
AND THE PROSPECT THAT IT COULD REPRESENT A GROWING
RADICALIZATION OF THE ELECTORATE. GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT
THE TIDE HAS BEEN STEMMED, BUT GOVERNMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENT
IN ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT FIELDS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS

WILL BE CRITICAL, AND ALL EFFORTS ARE BEING BENT TOWARD ASSURING A STABLE POLITICAL FUTURE FOR TRINIDAD. EVENTS HERE CANNOT BE ISOLATED FROM JAMAICA AND GUYANA, HOWEVER, AND DONALDSON PROFESSED NO REAL INSIGHTS INTO DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE TWO NATIONS.

4. WITH REGARD TO JAMAICA, DONALDSON WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF USG TECHNICAL MISSION SEEKING TO FIND WAY TO ASSIST WITH JAMAICAN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT INDICATED PERHAPS USG SHOULD NOT TRY TO "GO IT ALONE," AND IF POSSIBLE SHOULD WORK WITH OTHER POTENTIAL DONOR NATIONS AS WELL. I INFORMED HIM THAT WE WERE KEEPING POTENTIAL DONOR NATION AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON INFORMED, AND WOULD ALSO EXPECT TO KEEP OUR EFFORTS IN TANDEM WITH ANY JAMICAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IMF. DONALDSON STATED THAT GOTT WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST TO SOME DEGREE WITH JAMAICAN FINANCIAL NEEDS, BUT THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS WAS CONVINCED THAT THE GOTT COULD NOT ALONE OR EVEN PRINCIPALLY SOLVE JAMAICA'S PROBLEMS. THE REQUIREMENTS WERE TOO GREAT, AND THERE WERE MANY OTHER NEEDY MENDICANTS WITHIN CARICOM.

5. RECOMMENDATION: IF FUTURE MEETINGS OF AMBASSADORS ARE CONVENED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BRIEF OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO COOPERATE IN HELPING WITH JAMAICAN PROBLEMS (SEE STATE 98431), RECOMMEND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BE INCLUDED AS A STATE PARTICIPATING IN SUCH EFFORT.

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PAGE 03 PORT O 01234 01 OF 02 071028Z

6. GRATIFICATION WAS EXPRESSED AT PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON SUGAR POLICY, AND DONALDSON SAID USG DECISIONS BODE WELL FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, GOTT IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF RELATIVELY HIGH-COST TRINIDAD SUGAR INDUSTRY, AND IS LOOKING FOR WAYS GRADUALLY TO PHASE OUT OF DEPENDENCE ON SUGAR FOR AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT.

7. DONALDSON STATED HOPE THAT CURRENT USG EFFORTS TO FIND MECHANISMS FOR MEANINGFUL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD BEAR FRUIT. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST THE GOTT HAD DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH PRIVATE US FIRMS IN THIS AREA, AND WHILE THIS WAS SATISFACTORY FOR LARGE PROJECTS, CONSIDERABLE RANGE OF ACTIVITY IN MIDDLE SECTOR NEEDED TECHNOLOGICAL STIMULUS AND ACESS WHICH WAS AT PRESENT VERY DIFFICULT. I INFORMED HIM THAT AID WAS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROJECT ADDRESSED TO THIS NEED, AND THAT IN DUE COURSE WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION IN MORE DETAIL

WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

8. DONALDSON OFFERED REGRET AT GOTT INABILITY TO RECEIVE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE STUDY GROUP, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT PRIME MINISTER WANTED ABSOLUTE MINIMAL CONTACT OR EMPHASIS ON ANYTHING MILITARY. CONCERN FOR FUTURE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS RELATED TO THIS, AND WILLIAMS DID NOT WISH TO GIVE LEFTIST OPPOSITION ANY EXTRANEIOUS ISSUE TO EXPLOIT. (NOTE: I INFORMED DONALDSON THAT THE NWC GROUP WOULD BE VISITING GUYANA IN PLACE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.)

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01234 02 OF 02 071020Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 1234

9. COMMENT: HABIT OF CONSULTATION WILL NOT COME EASY TO GOTT, AND I EXPECT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE LESS THAN WE WOULD WISH. DR. WILLIAMS' ADAMANT NON-INVOLVEMENT IN MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH HE FEELS ARE NOT OF DIRECT CONCERN TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL CONTINUE ALSO TO LIMIT USEFULNESS OF OUR LOBBYING ON CERTAIN ISSUES. NEVERTHELESS, I FOUND DONALDSON WARMER AND FRANKER THAN HE HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME, ALBEIT WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF SEVERELY CIRCUMSCRIBED TIME FOR HIS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE DEVOTES FOUR HALF DAYS WEEKLY TO CABINET, SENATE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND POLITICAL PARTY DUTIES RES-

PECTIVELY. ANOTHER HALF DAY HE TELLS ME IS SPENT
IN MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS FOR WILLIAMS UNRELATED
TO HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES, LEAVING THE REMAINDER OF THE
TIME TO BE DIVIDED BETWEEN HIS TWO MINISTERIAL PORT-
FOLIOS OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY.
IN PRACTICE, THIS LEAVES TWO MORNINGS PER WEEK FOR HIS
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01234 02 OF 02 071020Z

ENTIRE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING
APPOINTMENTS AND PAPER WORK.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2615333
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDADIAN PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN, ETRD, PINR, TD, CARICOM, (DONALDSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcb70799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009